

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Valley Community For Recycling Solutions****Project Title:**

# Valley Community for Recycling Solutions - Community Recycling Center

**State Funding Requested: \$ 2,000,000****House District: 14 - G**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Funding to build a new recycling facility in the Mat-Su Valley and to manufacture goods from recycled materials.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$4,000,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

This funding will complete the finances necessary to build a new recycle center and develop a manufacturing section that will add to economic growth in the Mat-Su Valley.

VCRS staff and volunteers are doing their very best to provide this much needed waste reduction service to Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) residents and businesses as well as the communities located along the Parks, Glenn, and Richardson Highways.

The VCRS program is growing in spite of the limitations at our current recycling center site. Our main building is falling down and much of our operation happens outside, constantly exposing our staff, volunteers, and product to the elements. In addition, our current operation is situated near an intersection on one of the deadliest roads in Alaska, the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, making access into our site even more dangerous.

Our design plans for the new building are approaching 95%. With the money for our project in the supplemental budget and the approved \$2.5 million revenue bond from the Mat-Su Borough, we will be able to go forward with construction in this year's building season!

Attached is an additional letter in support of VCRS' mission and vision. It is from the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation. Please add it to our OCEAN of Support packet along with the resolutions and letters of support from the MSB, the cities of Palmer and Wasilla, the Greater Wasilla, Palmer, and Big Lake chambers, the Copper River Valley, Chickaloon Village, U.S. Economic Development and Environmental Protection Agencies, Alaska Department of

Commerce and Community Economic Development, and the rest of our many supporters!

**Project Timeline:**

2008-2009

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Valley Community for Recycling

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Mollie Boyer

Phone Number: 907-745-5544

Address: PO Box 876464, Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Email: mollie@valleyrecycling.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 745-9689 • Fax (907) 745-9669

[jduffy@matsugov.us](mailto:jduffy@matsugov.us)

### CY2008 Capital Project Description

#### **Valley Center for Recycling Solutions – Recycling Facility**

1. **Project Name:** Valley Center for Recycling Solutions – Recycling Facility
2. **Project Location and House District:** Matanuska-Susitna Borough;  
House District 13-G
3. **Description of Project:** This project consists of constructing a state-of-the-art recycling facility. When completed it will be the first Regional Resource Recovery & Training Park in Alaska. The project will establish waste reduction as the number one waste management practice in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and enlarging present operations at the center to receive and process more materials from business, industry, government, and individuals. In addition, the project will serve as a demonstration and pilot for other regions and communities across Alaska while also serving as an education center with a library and classroom complete with a view of the recycling plant operating area. Lastly, the facility will be a working platform for research and development.

The project will save money by decreasing amount of waste going to the Mat-Su Borough's Central Landfill and thereby help extend the landfill's lifespan (first "lined cell" filled at twice expected rate -3 years instead of 6- at a cost of \$3 million plus per lined cell). Further, the facility will help to reduce illegal dumping and use of burn barrels while also recovering resources from waste stream for local economic development/manufacturing.

Alaska lags far behind the national standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency for waste management. The EPA established hierarchy for waste management is reduce, reuse, recycle and then landfill. There are many reasons Alaska lags behind, including lack of infrastructure, climatic and geographic challenges, costs of working in rural Alaska, misconceptions on impact, and a perceived lower priority. Times have changed and the air and water quality problems related to buried and open pit landfills have escalated in both urban and rural Alaska. Statewide, communities are struggling to discover and establish waste reduction programs as well as change local habits and mindsets. VCRS is a grassroots leader in turning waste management around for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and for all of Alaska by taking a comprehensive business-based approach to the problem. By limiting the amount of waste going into Alaska's landfills we can reduce and in many cases prevent future negative impacts on air and water quality, and reduce the generation of methane and other known global warming gases.

The Regional Resource Recovery & Training Park will be a model project providing a comprehensive waste reduction program, vocational training, education and outreach, and

it will demonstrate a commercial operation with a Zero Waste, Net Zero Energy facility for all of Alaska.

This facility is integral to promoting future economic development options for all regions across Alaska. As energy and transportation costs continue to increase, we need to be recycling materials within Alaska for local re-manufacturing – creating local jobs and reducing current and future waste disposal costs. In addition to processing materials, this will be a place for training and education – we will be collaborating with faculty and staff from established programs (e.g. University, Alaska Job Corps, Native corporation) to develop on-going opportunities in workforce development, research and education in several disciplines. Finally, with our goal to develop the RRRTP as a Net Zero Energy commercial facility, this will be a working model for other commercial and public entities seeking practical ways to deal with increasing energy costs in their publicly-funded infrastructure.

4. **Describe the regional benefits of the project, if any.** In addition to the Mat-Su we serve the Copper River Valley (Glenallen, Copper Center, Mt Sanford Tribal Consortium). Recently we have established a relationship with Fort Greely to receive their material and help grow their program to include Delta Junction. The project will serve as a demonstration project for other parts of Alaska, particularly rural Alaska, to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of recycling in rural Alaska.
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6. **Amount of Funding Request:** \$2,500,000
7. **Total funding to complete the project:** \$7,500,000
8. **Number of years to complete the project; start and end dates:** 2 years; July 2008 –July 2010.
9. **Matching funds available/sources:** Mat-Su Borough: land valued at \$405,000 for locating the facility, \$2.5 million revenue bond, \$100,000 for architectural; Local individual, businesses, and corporations: \$155,000; Economic Development Administration: \$50,000 in preliminary engineering and design.
10. **If the project received prior state appropriations, list the amount and the year of the appropriation:** N/A
11. **Are funds for the project included in the Governor's proposed FY2009 budget? If so, where?** No.
12. **Are federal funds being sought, either through competitive grants or earmarks?** Yes.
13. **Has the project gone through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority demonstrated by resolution or other official action by the governing body?** The project has been developed and is sponsored by a wide variety of local community groups and businesses and it is also be identified by Assembly

Resolution as one of the Mat-Su Borough's state and federal priorities. The project is also contained in the Mat-Su Borough Capital Improvement Plan.

- 14. If funding is made available for the project this year, who will be responsible le for providing the ongoing maintenance and operations costs?** Valley Center for Recycling Solutions and the Mat-Su Borough.

- 15. Project contact information – name, address, e-mail, phone number:**

John Duffy, Borough Manager  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
350 E. Dahlia Ave.  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
[jduffy@matsugov.us](mailto:jduffy@matsugov.us)  
907-745-9689

**Ginger Blaisdell**

**From:** Sen. Lyda Green  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2008 11:55 AM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** FW: Recycling Center Status  
**Attachments:** DEC Letter of Support.jpg

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**From:** Mollie [mailto:mollie@valleyrecycling.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 08, 2008 2:05 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyda Green  
**Subject:** Recycling Center Status

Dear Senator Green,

The Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) is excited to see our project has been included in the state's supplemental budget. VCRS staff and volunteers are doing their very best to provide this much needed waste reduction service to Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) residents and businesses as well as the communities located along the Parks, Glenn, and Richardson Highways.

The VCRS program is growing in spite of the limitations at our current recycling center site. Our main building is falling down and much of our operation happens outside, constantly exposing our staff, volunteers, and product to the elements. In addition, our current operation is situated near an intersection on one of the deadliest roads in Alaska, the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, making access into our site even more dangerous.

Our design plans for the new building are approaching 95%. With the money for our project in the supplemental budget and the approved \$2.5 million revenue bond from the Mat-Su Borough, we will be able to go forward with construction in this year's building season!

Attached is an additional letter in support of VCRS' mission and vision. It is from the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation. Please add it to our OCEAN of Support packet along with the resolutions and letters of support from the MSB, the cities of Palmer and Wasilla, the Greater Wasilla, Palmer, and Big Lake chambers, the Copper River Valley, Chickaloon Village, U.S. Economic Development and Environmental Protection Agencies, Alaska Department of Commerce and Community Economic Development, and the rest of our many supporters!

Thank you Senator Green for your support of our project to build the first Regional Resource Recovery & Training Park in Alaska. Less waste makes good sense and VCRS will continue to be a leader in developing technology for waste reduction through resource recovery for all of Alaska.

On Sunday, April 27 at the Palmer Depot from 2pm to 6pm VCRS will be hosting our annual Earth Day celebration. This year we will also be celebrating the 10-Year Anniversary of our first recycling event! Please put this date on your calendar to come celebrate with us. It would be an honor to have you be a part of this VCRS milestone!

Sincerely, Mollie\*

Mollie Boyer  
*Executive Director*  
**Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS)**  
*"Together, We're Turning it Around"*  
 PO Box 876464  
 Wasilla, Alaska 99687  
 907.745.5544  
[www.valleyrecycling.org](http://www.valleyrecycling.org)

Our mission is to educate and provide opportunities in our community to reduce, reuse and recycle for the long-term good of all.

Our vision is to establish the Mat-Su Borough as a model recycling community for Alaska.

3/20/2008

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**  
410 Willoughby Ave., Ste 303  
Post Office Box 111800  
Juneau, AK 99811-1800  
PHONE: (907) 465-5066  
FAX: (907) 465-5070  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us>

February 6, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Alaska state statutes instruct the Department of Environmental Conservation to promote solid waste management practices that reduce and recycle solid waste over practices to treat and dispose of solid waste:

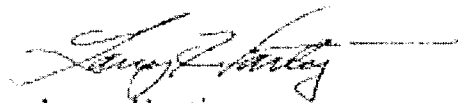
Sec. 46.06.021. Solid and hazardous waste management practices. In order to minimize present and future threats to human health and the environment in the state, the department shall promote the following solid and hazardous waste management practices in the following order of priority:

- (1) waste source reduction;
- (2) recycling of waste;
- (3) waste treatment; and
- (4) waste disposal.

We understand that the mission of the Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) is to educate and provide opportunities in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to reduce, reuse and recycle what would otherwise be wastes disposed of in solid waste disposal facilities or illegally. Included among VCRS's efforts is development of a Regional Resource Recovery & Training Park facility at the borough landfill.

DEC believes that the VCRS efforts related to solid waste as they have been represented to us are consistent with state policy. In accordance with our statutory mandate to promote alternatives to solid waste disposal, we endorse efforts to expand reduction, reuse and recycling opportunities, outreach and training including the efforts of the VCRS in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Sincerely,



Larry Hartig  
Commissioner



**Bill Allen**  
**City Manager**

City of Palmer  
231 W. Evergreen Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6952  
Phone (907) 745-3271  
ballen@palmerak.org  
www.cityofpalmer.org

March 21, 2008

The Honorable Lyda Green  
Senate President  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 111  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear President Green:

Your support of vital capital projects for the Valley is greatly appreciated, and your office has been extremely helpful in working with the City of Palmer toward our mutual goals during this legislative session.

I am writing to provide information highlighting the importance of Valley-specific funding requests. The City of Palmer supports inclusion of the following projects in SB 256 and encourages Governor Palin to allow for their funding in the supplemental budget. They are important for the safety of Valley residents, and for continued economic development of the Greater Palmer area.

Mat-Su Baseball, Inc.

- Over 15,000 citizens utilize and visit the ballpark annually
- Hermon Brothers Ball Field is home to both Palmer and Colony High Schools in the spring; hosts the Mat-Su Miners semi-pro team in the summer; and is used by the Alaska State Fair from August through Labor Day
- Multiple users ensure state dollars are maximized, however the only time the field is available for improvements is Labor Day through October
- Funding in the supplemental bill allows for supplies to be purchased, contractors hired, and work to start immediately after the Alaska State Fair concludes on September 2; if funding is delayed another construction season is lost
- The funds will rebuild the 32 year old outfield fence which is literally falling down; replace the backstop originally installed in 1976; and re-build the concession stand which provides a funding stream throughout the entire season which helps keep the non-profit sustainable.

Palmer Arts Council

- The Performing Arts Center will serve several thousand people for productions in the 300-seat theater within the first year of opening, and will provide arts and arts education summer events and camps for residents and summer visitors
- Upwards of 1,000 children will participate in active programs and enrichment activities at the Center
- The supplemental funding will provide land clearing, demo of the existing old construction, potential hazardous waste cleanup and property inspection
- Delay in initiating the planned Arts Center will cause the project to incur up to a 10% increase in annual building costs, and will cause costs to accrue on the acquired but unused property. Additional funding resources, including solicitation of grants and other revenue sources are dependent on and will follow the initial State funding



#### Valley Community for Recycling Solutions

- State Funds are vital to attract other funding – 2.5 million in matching funds have been appropriated by the Borough but will not be released until VCRS has all funding in place. The Rasmuson Foundation has expressed an interest in the project, but will not provide lead money
- Delaying the project to the fiscal year budget will cause the entire effort to be set back another year causing economic hardship to the organization and potentially the Borough
- The project will have a positive economic impact on the Borough as trash is diverted from the landfill – six million dollars in public money has been spent since 2004 in the design and construction of new cells at the landfill
- The temporary facility is unsafe; the building is falling down causing much work to be completed outside in one of the windiest spots in the Borough
- The temporary location is immediately adjacent to one of the busiest intersections on the 5<sup>th</sup> most dangerous road in the state
- VCRS has a 40% annual growth rate in people recycling without any overt advertising – a new facility is needed now

#### Palmer High School (PHS) Bleachers


- The funding for bleachers will complete last year's appropriation and provide safety consideration for attendees at PHS events
- This will allow for the construction of safety steps for the internal bleachers and provide a concrete pad for the external bleachers, allowing both accommodation for handicapped access and facilitation of future expansion
- The internal bleachers accommodate in excess of 667 (current student population at PHS), and the external bleachers allow for seating of up to 300 people per event

#### Palmer-Wasilla Highway Improvements

- The Palmer-Wasilla Highway is the 5<sup>th</sup> most dangerous road in the State, serving approximately 14,500 vehicles per day (2005) just west of Palmer. Traffic is anticipated to grow to over 40,000 vehicles per day by 2030, even with the Bogard Road Extension to Palmer
- Work must begin now and must be pursued vigorously and continuously to keep up with growing traffic and to keep the Palmer-Wasilla Highway from moving up any higher on the list of dangerous roads

Thank you for your hard work on our behalf.

Best personal regards,



B. B. Allen



415 E. Railroad Avenue (Historic Depot) • Wasilla, AK 99654  
Email: [info@wasillachamber.org](mailto:info@wasillachamber.org)

Telephone (907) 376-1299 • Fax (907) 373-2560  
Home Page: [www.wasillachamber.org](http://www.wasillachamber.org)

Voted "Alaska's Outstanding Local Chamber of Commerce - 1998, 2006"  
"Home of the Iditarod" & "Home of the Iron Dog"

bp

March 20, 2008



Senator Lyda Green  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska



Dear Senator Green,



The Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce fully supports the \$2 million dollar appropriation in the budget for the new VCRS Regional Resource Recovery & Training Park. The facility will benefit the entire Mat-Su Borough. It is also our opportunity to help create solutions; stepping forward in providing a brighter future for our next generation of leaders.

Thank you for your support and consideration!

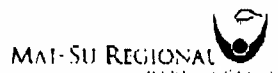


Sincerely,



*Cheryl Metiva*

Cheryl Metiva, Executive Director/CEO  
GWCC





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350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 745-9689 • Fax (907) 745-9669

[jduffy@matsugov.us](mailto:jduffy@matsugov.us)

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# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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410 Willoughby Ave., Ste 303  
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Juneau, AK 99811-1800  
PHONE: (907) 465-5066  
FAX: (907) 465-5070  
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February 6, 2008

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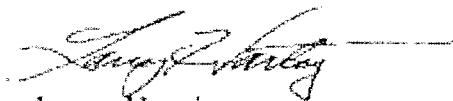
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Sincerely,



Larry Hartig  
Commissioner



## Ginger Blaisdell

---

**From:** Cindy Bettine [cindybettine@mtaonline.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2008 9:22 PM

**To:** Ginger Blaisdell

**Subject:** Mat Su recycling Center

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to support the 2 million in the supplemental budget for the Mat Su recycling center. I have served on the Mat Su Borough Assembly for 2 + years and this item has been on the Borough's request for capital projects for two budget cycles. I understand the Governor's reluctance to support capital projects that have not gone through the public process, however, the recycling center is not such a project. After many years of the current recycling center being operated by volunteers and business/corporate donations, the Mat Su Borough has assisted in a land transfer and other appropriations. **This project has been through the Mat Su Borough public process for two budget cycles.**

Cindy Bettine

Mat Su Assembly

907-892-8877

**Ginger Blaisdell**

**From:** Sen. Lyda Green  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2008 11:55 AM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** FW: Recycling Center Status  
**Attachments:** DEC Letter of Support.jpg

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Sincerely, Mollie\*

Mollie Boyer  
*Executive Director*  
**Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS)**  
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[www.valleyrecycling.org](http://www.valleyrecycling.org)

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Our vision is to establish the Mat-Su Borough as a model recycling community for Alaska.

3/20/2008



## Ginger Blaisdell

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**From:** AK Center For Appropriate Technology [m.masteller@acat.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2008 5:00 AM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Valley Community for Recycling Solutions

Dear Senator Green,

I was very pleased to see that the appropriation for the new Mat-Su Community Recycling Center (officially known as the Regional Resource Recovery and Training Park) was on your list of priority projects. This new facility is sorely needed to house VCRS' growing operations, and the current (leased) facility is in need of major repair and has increasingly unsafe vehicle access.

Further, recycling materials has been proven to produce far more jobs than landfilling, and the recovery of these resources can provide the basis for growth and diversity in our local economy. (According to the National Recycling Coalition, for every job in collecting recyclables there are 26 jobs created in processing materials and manufacturing them into new products.) We need to invest NOW to begin developing local manufacturing opportunities here in the Mat-Su, and the first step is diversion of the "raw materials" from our waste stream.

Finally, landfilling is increasingly expensive - better to put our money into diverting "waste" (and making the landfill last MUCH longer) than into expensive lined landfill cells that fill up faster than we predict. As the price of fossil fuel and transportation increases, materials such as paper, plastic and metal are increasing rapidly in value. Better to capture that value than bury it.

Thanks for your support!

Mark Masteller

Project Manager (consulting)  
VCRS Regional Resource Recovery and Training Park  
373-0909

3/21/2008

**Ginger Blaisdell**

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**From:** Jamie Smith [topgun@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2008 10:17 PM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** Valley Center for Recycling Solutions  
**Importance:** High

Ms. Blaisdell,

I wish to show my support for the Valley Center for Recycling Solutions efforts to recycle several categories of items that would instead be put into the landfill.

1. Our landfill is filling fast, and at the current rate of population growth here in the Valley it won't be long before the landfill reaches its capacity. The result will have negative impacts on both the groundwater and quality of our air. Rather than create another landfill in the next few years, it would be more beneficial to establish a permanent location for VCRS.
2. Establishing the Recycle Center will divert more than 20% of the waste away from the landfill. Goods recycled slow the growth of landfill need. Recycled goods have a positive impact on our economy, creating jobs for Alaskans and saving costs of shipping construction goods from the Lower 48. Examples of this can be seen in the construction industry. Many of the items recycled - newspaper, cardboard, etc - are used to manufacture insulation used in new construction. Recycled tires are shredded and used in place of gravel on playgrounds. Those are only a few ways recycled goods are used, but I'm sure there are many more.
3. VCRS has outgrown its present location. This alone should prove there is not only a need for a permanent location, but also that an amazing amount of local residents and businesses support the Recycle Center. There are safety concerns at the current location that could be remedied by construction at a permanent location with easy access. Located near a dangerous intersection on one of the deadliest stretches of road in the state, recyclers are in danger of accidents as they enter and exit this location. In addition more storage and processing space is needed, as can be seen by the amount of bundles awaiting transportation to the next location in the process and the super-sacks of goods waiting to be bundled.
4. We need to move forward with this project NOW. Costs of new construction - or even re-model - are rising every day. As a buyer for the 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, I can tell you the prices of raw materials and shipping are exploding. From the steel to lumber to glass to concrete.... and so on down to the wire and cable used in construction, the costs change daily. NO prices are falling. We need to get this project underway this construction season.

We live in the most beautiful State in the United States of America. Let's get this project going and make it an example for other areas of the State. Recycling will keep the Valley clean, decrease the need to create landfills at an alarming rate, and is simply the right thing to do for so many reasons. Together we can all help keep Alaska clean and green.

Thank you,

Jamie L. Smith

HC34 Box 2131M

Wasilla, AK 99654

3/21/2008

## Ginger Blaisdell

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**From:** Sarah & River Bean [beans@alaska.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2008 9:22 AM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** recycling center funding

Senator Green,

There is no question in my mind but that the incredibly successful community supported efforts of the **Valley Community for Recycling Solutions** are eligible for public funding for their well-founded building project. Do not let Governor Pain nix this funding. In this day and age we need to do everything we can to re-use our resources and quit making garbage. VCRS stands for everything a community should be proud of. They have been taking such good care of us for so long, it's time the State do its part in supporting such a positive effort in our community.

Sarah Bean  
Arctic Organics  
1305 N. Smith Road  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
(907)746-1087

## Ginger Blaisdell

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**From:** Denali Trekking Company [info@alaskahiking.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2008 11:05 AM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** Recycling Center

Good Morning Ms. Blaisdell,  
Please pass on the following comments to Ms. Lyda Green.

My name is Billy FitzGerald, I'm a 30+ year resident of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and registered republican voter that has never missed an opportunity to vote in any election.

I am writing to show my whole-hearted support for the 2 million dollar appropriation for the VCRS Regional Resource Recovery & Training Center.

There are many infrastructure needs in the Mat-Su Valley but I believe there are few that can equal the importance of this dire need.

Our current land fill is being exhausted at a much faster than estimated rate and development of alternative sites is extremely expensive. Given the projected population increases in the Valley; it only stands to reason that habitable land will become more and more precious as will the need for reuse of many different kinds of materials.

Ms. Green, I urge you to throw full support for this valuable and very much needed infrastructure development in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, your home.

Thanks you,  
Billy FitzGerald  
P.O. Box 93  
Talkeetna AK 99676  
(907) 733-2566

## Ginger Blaisdell

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**From:** susan simpson [ssimpson@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2008 7:27 PM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** VCRS Regional RR &T Park

Dear Senator Green,

We are honored to live in such a beautiful state, and it is our responsibility to maintain that beauty. Part of that responsibility is to address the growing amount of waste being produced in the Mat-Su Valley. The Borough has spent \$6.5 million since 2004 on landfill cell design/construction, and this is filling fast. This results in concerns regarding air quality and groundwater. Five years from now it is estimated that 116,000 people will live in the Borough. Recycling will divert 25% of the waste in five years.

VCRS is a grass-roots, volunteer-based, non-profit organization, and great efforts have been given by many people in many capacities. It has been an ongoing, uphill battle to which people of the Valley have given untold hours of time. VCRS has outgrown its present location and there are serious safety concerns. The leased building is falling down and is located right at a dangerous intersection on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, identified as one of the deadliest stretches of road in the state. The Borough has allocated land near the Borough Animal Control building for the recycling center and has had VCRS as a line item in their budget for several years. THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE NEED FOR THIS CENTER.

The amount of recyclable materials brought to the center has increased so much due to increases in utilization of recycling services and the growing population, that VCRS is bursting at the seams and needs additional space for processing and storing materials.

Senator Green, we are counting on you to represent the desires of the Valley population to support building a model recycling center for the State of Alaska. We will contribute to preserving our environment, and our children will continue what we worked so hard to implement.

Susan P. Simpson  
Past Board Member, VCRS  
School Psychologist  
Mat-Su Borough School District  
(907)232-5405

## Ginger Blaisdell

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**From:** Valley Recycle Pickup [valleyrecyclepickup@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2008 6:23 PM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** support for state funding of permanent recycling facility in the Mat-Su

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this email as evidence of my support for state funding for a permanent recycling facility in the Mat-Su Valley.

There are a multitude of reasons that make a permanent facility a good idea. To spare you a dissertation, however, I will offer only a couple of them. First and foremost: landfills fill up and then we need to dig new ones. Land is expensive, digging the landfills is, too, and not any less impactful is the tendency of the waste (toxins) in the land leaching into our ground water. Second, on a per-ton basis, sorting and processing recyclables alone sustain 10 times more jobs than landfilling or incineration (National Recycling Coalition, US Economic Recycling Information Study, July 2001).

The support of a permanent recycling facility has both economic and environmental implications for the Mat-Su Valley and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dr. Skip Hrin  
Clinical Psychologist,  
Owner/Operator Valley Recycle Pick Up

## Ginger Blaisdell

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**From:** Sen. Lyda Green  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2008 4:59 PM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** FW: Support for funding fro V.C.R.C.

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**From:** John Klapperich [mailto:john@kmbq.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2008 4:33 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyda Green  
**Subject:** Support for funding fro V.C.R.C.

Dean Senator Green,

Valley Community Recycling Center, need a safe space for employees and maximize buying power, and build their new facility in 2008.

Please understand, I and many other business owners support you funding Valley Community Recycle Center, \$ 2,000,000.00 grant. Also, Valley Radio is taking the lead in Alaska Media Companies by going green we are installing major commercial solar panels and wind turbines at our Parks Highway Broadcast center this summer.

Any State assistance for businesses using renewable resources?

### ***John Klapperich***

IPPresident ,Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce.  
Business Person of the Year.

Member: International Broadcaster's Idea Bank.

R.A.B.Dallas, Small Market Advisory Board member.

Owner / President - KMBQ/KBYR Corporation

**2200 East Parks Highway**  
**Wasilla, Alaska 99654**  
**(907) 373-0222 Ext. 14**  
**Cell (907) 355-9970**  
[john@kmbq.com](mailto:john@kmbq.com)

## Ginger Blaisdell

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**From:** Roland Shanks [RShanks@RCAC.ORG]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2008 4:38 PM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Cc:** mollie@valleyrecycling.org  
**Subject:** Valley Community for Recycling Solutions

Dear Senator Green

I have been working with VCRS for over 3 years, and they have made great advances in recycling material in the Mat-Su area. They have worked hard to acquire additional equipment and training to increase their capacity to process material.

A new facility is badly needed for several reasons. First, their current facility is in very poor shape. The building are deteriorating and will become dangerous in the future, risking harm to people and the equipment. Secondly, the building is too small to contain the equipment they need to process material even at the current level, let alone at increasing levels as the Borough grows and as the number of people recycling increases. Lastly, the facility provides an important statewide activity as a model for other recycling centers and as training site for recycling workers for other recycling centers.

VCRS is recognized statewide as one of the leading recycling centers in Alaska and is frequently toured by Alaskans from around the state to learn how to develop recycling activities in their communities. Also, the staff at VCRS is always available to answer questions and provide assistance to groups developing recycling centers. They have exercise a leadership role in developing recycling on a statewide basis.

It is very important to begin construction as early as possible, that is why it is important that the appropriation be in the Supplemental bill, so the funding can be available in time to take advantage of this construction season. Funding in the Capital Budget won't be available early enough and construct will be moved to next year.

Roland Shanks  
RDS Environmental --Anchorage Alaska  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation  
907.279 1126  
907.230 4918 cell

3/21/2008



**Ginger Blaisdell**

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**From:** Pete Praetorius [petepraetorius@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2008 9:59 PM  
**To:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Subject:** Thank you for your support of VCRS in the supplemental budget

Dear Ms. Blaisdell:

Thank you for all of your support of VCRS and our efforts to build a new recycling center. I noticed that the governor is requesting a meeting with each district's senator and representatives so that legislators may justify the capital projects that are in this year's supplemental budget. I believe that the VCRS's capital request reaches far beyond the immediate district in which the facility is to be located. Like the adjacent landfill, this new facility will serve residents and businesses of the Mat-Su borough as well as those up the highways. People from as far away as Glennallen and Fort Greely are presently being served by the current VCRS facility.

But VCRS has outgrown this current location, and there are serious safety concerns. The current building is falling down and is located too close to a dangerous intersection on the Palmer Wasilla Highway, identified as one of the deadliest stretches of road in the state. In addition, more space for storage and processing is needed in order to deal with the increased use of recycling and the growing Borough population.

Every month raw material and shipping costs increase, making it even more important that this project move forward this construction season. For example, the cost of steel for construction rose 25% in the last two weeks. Thus, it is important that funds be allocated as soon as possible so that the purchase of materials and construction can begin quickly.

Thank you all for your help.

Sincerely,

Pete Praetorius  
President of the VCRS Board of Directors

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March 20, 2008



Re: Valley Community for Recycling Solutions

The United Way of Mat-Su strongly supports the appropriation in the Alaska Legislature for the new Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) Regional Resource Recovery and Training Park. The Regional Resource Recovery facility is a much needed resource for people in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The center will focus on the collection and processing of recyclable material, serve as a brokerage for recovered resources, and a clearinghouse for information. From the center, VCRS will enhance current educational outreach to schools, residents and businesses, promote wise waste management and promote the benefits of reduction, reuse and recycling.

The Recycling Center is crucial for building a sustainable recycling program in our community. The new center will utilize building techniques which promote whole-building practices and energy efficiency. It will also address our community's need for capacity. The Mat-Su Borough's landfill is filling quickly, ahead of projections, which will result in diminished groundwater and air quality. The Borough has incurred costs of \$6.5 million for the design and construction of landfill cells since 2004. It is estimated that the population of the Borough will reach 116,000 in five years. Recycling will divert 25% of the waste stream in five years, slowing the growth in landfill need.

The new center will be able to handle thousands of pounds of materials a day and meet the needs of large waste producers. The center's capacity to handle large volumes of materials will allow local commercial waste-haulers to expand their services and offer curbside recycling to their clients thereby promoting economic growth and diversity. VCRS will be self-sustaining through service contracts, the sale of recyclable materials, processed and re-made items, and educational materials.

In summation, the development of a Community Recycling Center in the Mat-Su will increase the ability to recover valuable resources, save households, businesses and industry money by avoiding disposal costs, recover tons of recyclable materials on a daily basis, extend the life of the landfill, consequently saving valuable land and air space, save tax payers' money and give business a way to improve their efficiency and competitiveness. The Alaska Legislature has an opportunity to provide an efficient and valuable resource for individuals, families, businesses and our community by supporting the appropriation for the new VCRS Regional Resource Recovery and Training Park. This project has far-reaching community support. The United Way of Mat-Su urges you to carefully consider and support this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie L. Allen

Executive Director

United Way of Mat-Su